

Abstract of the Invention

The present invention is directed to immortalized
STAT1-deficient mammalian cell lines. STAT1 is a signal
transducer and activator of transcription that becomes
5 phosphorylated when cells are treated with type I or type
II interferons and leads to induction of specific gene
expression, resulting in establishment of the antiviral
state and ~~the~~ ^{the} other known biological responses to
interferons, including the inhibition of cell
10 proliferation. Cells which lack this gene product are
useful for producing high titers of viral stocks, for
producing recombinant viral vectors, for testing samples,
especially clinical samples for the presence of virus and
for screening candidate compounds or drugs for anti-viral
15 activity.